

Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup

of the Governor's Prevention
Advisory Council

Workgroup Members:

Attorney General's Crime and
Violence Prevention Center

California Alcoholic Beverage
Control

California Department of Alcohol
and Drug Programs

California Department of
Education

California Friday Night Live
Partnership

California Highway Patrol

California National Guard –
Drug Demand Reduction

California State PTA

Center for Applied Research
Solutions

Napa County Office of Education

Workgroup Chair:

Jaime Taylor,
California Alcoholic Beverage
Control



February 1, 2010

Greetings,

The Governor's Prevention Advisory Council (GPAC) Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup would like to congratulate your organization for being approved to participate in the 2010 Town Hall Meetings. Our workgroup supports participation in the Town Hall Meetings and appreciates that you are doing your part to prevent and reduce underage drinking.

In 2008, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with the Federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD), supported Town Hall Meetings across the country. As a result, more than 1,600 communities in the 50 States and the U.S. Pacific jurisdictions held meetings to address the serious public health and safety problems associated with underage drinking. By holding the meetings on or around the same date, each community was able to address the issue locally while also participating in a simultaneous national effort. This year, the series of Town Hall Meetings (THMs) will take place across America during the week of **March 22, 2010**.

In 2008, the majority of THMs were led by youth and prevention specialists. We recommend the meetings continue to be youth led and that young people be at the center of the planning and implementation. We encourage you to work with young people to make these events successful.

In planning a Town Hall Meeting, we recommend that each community use *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking* and the accompanying *Guide to Action for Communities*. In addition, our GPAC workgroup is providing each participating organization, within California, a technical assistance package that includes information on underage and binge drinking, as well as, guidelines on how to hold a Town Hall Meeting.

Since underage drinking is a critical health and safety issue, it is important to involve representatives from the entire community, including parents; youth; educators; substance abuse prevention specialists; elected officials; representatives of non-profit organizations, businesses, health organizations, justice/law enforcement, highway safety, alcohol control, and other State and local government agencies.

We are looking for these events to be a catalyst for action steps that will follow the Town Hall. We hope the meetings will lead to increased awareness so that community members will have the tools to affect change in their lives and possibly rally together to support legislation which aids in the prevention of underage drinking throughout their communities.

We hope your event is a success and look forward to seeing the results of the 2010 Town Hall Meetings.

Best regards,

Jaime Taylor, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Chairperson, GPAC Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup